



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

February 26, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM - ANNUAL REVIEW**

Pursuant to Board Policy No. 3.050, this is to provide your Board with an annual review of the Foreign Consulate Identification Card Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Foreign Consulate Identification Card Program was established to allow County departments to accept a foreign consulate identification card (FCIC) as a form of valid identification. An FCIC is used only for identification purposes. It is not considered proof of legal residence nor does it extend special benefits which would require legal residency to the holder.

On June 11, 2002, your Board authorized the County of Los Angeles to accept the Matricula Consular, an FCIC issued by the Consulate of Mexico, as a form of identification. The FCIC for the Consulate of Argentina was accepted into the program on August 1, 2003, and the FCIC for the Consulate of Korea on May 19, 2006. The Chief Executive Office has delegated authority to approve acceptance of a Consulate's FCIC upon notification to your Board if the FCIC meets the criteria as set forth in the Policy.

### **ANNUAL REVIEW**

All County departments were surveyed to determine which departments were presented with FCICs in the course of their operations. The number of departments that have been presented with FCICs has increased from 13 departments in 2003 to 16 departments in 2007.

The following departments reported that they were not presented with any of the eligible FCICs in 2007: Affirmative Action Compliance, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Alternate Public Defender, Animal Care and Control, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, District Attorney, Fire, Human Relations Commission, Human Resources, Internal Services, Mental Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, Ombudsman, Public Defender, Public Health, Public Works, and Regional Planning.

The attached reflects information on the services, the frequency, and any operational issues reported by the departments presented with one or more of the eligible FCICs. The following are highlights from the departments' responses:

- **Children and Family Services** – The Department was presented with only Mexican FCICs during this reporting period. The FCICs were presented to the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) along with a Live Scan to perform a background check and obtain clearance consistent with child placements. No problems have been experienced in accepting these cards. Background checks within the U.S. are conducted by California Department of Justice; CEO is working with DCFS and affected Consulates to ensure appropriate background checks are also conducted with the cardholders' country of origin.

The Department was also presented with FCICs from other consulates, such as El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia. These countries are not included in the FCIC Program, and therefore, these FCICs were not accepted.

- **Health Services (DHS)** – All three FCICs were presented to various DHS facilities. Although the Department does not track the actual number of FCICs presented, the facilities provided approximate estimates for the purposes of this survey.

The Mexican FCICs were presented at County Hospitals, Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Centers (MACCs), Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs), and Health Centers (HCs). An estimated 5 to 25 percent of the patient population at the hospitals, and up to 60 percent of the patient population at the MACCs, CHCs, and HCs presented a Mexican FCIC. The Mexican FCICs were presented for services which include registration, financial screening, visits to clinics and emergency rooms, inpatient services, and scheduled appointments.

The Argentinean FCICs were presented at MACCs, CHCs, HCs, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. An estimated 1 to 10 percent of the patient population at the MACCs, CHCs, and HCs presented an FCIC for women's and urgent care services.

The Korean FCICs were presented at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, LAC+USC Medical Center, and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center; and the San Fernando, Glendale, Roybal, and Long Beach HCs. An estimated 2 percent of the patient population at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, and less than 5 percent of the patient population at San Fernando and Glendale HCs presented an FCIC.

- **Office of Public Safety (OPS)** – OPS was presented with Mexican FCICs during the course of law enforcement activities. After accepting the FCIC as valid photo identification during the initial contact with an individual, the person may be cited for infractions or misdemeanor crimes. Depending on the particular court jurisdiction, these citations may require additional documentation, such as the person's photograph and thumbprint in order to file or prosecute the citation.
- **Public Library** – Mexican and Argentinean FCICs have been presented as photo identification to obtain a County Public Library card. Since July 2002, 5,193 library cards were issued to customers using a Mexican FCIC; 285 of those cards were issued last year and customers with these library cards borrowed 202,521 items last year. Since August 2003, a total of three library cards have been issued to customers using an Argentinean FCIC. In 2007, no new library cards were issued and no items were borrowed by these customers. Further, the Department reported that the FCIC Annual Review offers the libraries an opportunity to review the FCIC Program with Community Library Managers and that no problems have been identified with accepting FCICs.
- **Sheriff's Department** – FCICs from all three Consulates have been presented for identification purposes during routine activities, such as traffic stops and arrests. The number of FCICs presented continues to increase each year from over 100 in 2005, to 262 in 2006, to nearly 300 in 2007. The Department's concern is that it is difficult to verify that the card is authentic and that the person in possession of the card is the person to whom it was issued.

We believe that the security features reflected in these cards (as discussed below), are consistent with the acceptance criteria adopted by your Board and are comparable with those of other key forms of identification, including drivers' licenses and State ID cards.

The Department would like to have access to Consulate databases established and linked to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system used by the Department. The Consulates are unable to share access to their database due to issues of foreign policy and confidentiality. However, they are cooperating with the County and are willing to assist in the verification of an FCIC that may be in question. The estimated response time to any inquiries from the Department would be within 24 hours.

- **Treasurer and Tax Collector** – Mexican and Argentinean FCICs have been presented for registration for tax sales, business license applications, and collection related matters. The information received from the FCIC is sufficient for the Treasurer and Tax Collector's purposes.

### **Training**

Beginning in 2005, the Consulates have been providing annual training to County employees to review the documentation requirements needed to issue a consulate card, the contents of the card, and the various security features embedded in each card to deter counterfeiting.

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This year's training was held on October 25, 2007 with the Mexican, Argentinean, and Korean Consulates all providing training on their respective Consulate Cards. Participating departments included: Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Board of Supervisors Executive Office, Children and Family Services, Child Support Services, Community and Senior Services, Mental Health, Probation, Parks and Recreation, Public Social Services, Public Library, Office of Public Safety, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, and Sheriff.

As requested by departments, sample FCICs are also available to staff. The training program includes a hands-on component to assist County employees to properly authenticate FCICs in order to deter identity theft or falsification. The Argentinean and Korean FCICs have several security features, such as holograms, under-printing, micro-printing, and color changing and fluorescent ink. The Mexican FCIC has 13 security elements, some visible and some non-visible to the naked eye. To authenticate a Mexican FCIC, the use of special devices can be utilized to view the non-visible elements, including; black/ultraviolet lights, magnifying glasses, and decoders. These tools are demonstrated by the Mexican Consulate at training sessions and the Consulate makes an unlimited number of decoders available upon request.

Based on the operational issues identified by departments, this Office will continue to work with the Consulates to provide annual training to strengthen the FCIC Program. Furthermore, training will be incorporated to meet the specific needs of departmental divisions.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this memorandum or require additional information, please call me, or your staff may call Martin Zimmerman at (213) 974-1326.

WTF:ES:MKZ  
JH:KJ:pg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads (Via Electronic Mail)

2007 FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD ANNUAL SURVEY

ATTACHMENT

Department	1. In conjunction with what services or activities were FCICs presented as a form of photo ID?	2. What country issued the FCIC?			3. Approximately how many people presented an FCIC in 2007?	4. Has department identified any problems accepting FCICs as a form of photo ID?
		Mexico	Argentina	Korea		
Assessor	Request for property information.	X			3	No
Board of Supervisors, Executive Office	Request to use translation devices in the Board Room in place of a driver's license that is required to be left for use of the device.	X			One in past three years.	Staff was not familiar with the format of the ID. Sergeant-at-arms explained what it was and accepted it.
Child Support Services	Request for case closure, mistaken identification, interviews, and service of Summons and Complaint.	X			1,500	No
Children and Family Services	Complete LiveScan Fingerprinting consistent with child placements.	X			Mexico - 1,000	No problems have been experienced in accepting these cards. Background checks within the U.S. are conducted by California Department of Justice; CEO is working with DCFS and affected Consulates to ensure appropriate background checks are also conducted with the cardholders' country of origin.
Community Development Commission	Request for Public Housing Assistance Program and Section 8 Program.	X			10	No
Community and Senior Services	Request for Emergency Food Assistance Program, Toy Loan Program, and Utility Assistance Program, and case management.	X			Not available	In some cases, the date was expired, the address not current, or the name did not match client name on service request.
Coroner	Identify next of kin for notification, recovery of personal property, and decedent identification.	X			120	No
Health Services	Presented by general patient population for services at Los Angeles County hospitals (Olive View, Rancho), Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC), Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs) and Health Centers (HCs).  Facilities do not keep track of the actual amount of usage of the FCIC.	X	X	X	Mexico: 5-25% hospital patient population, and up to 60% MACC/CHC/HC patient population. Argentina: 1-10% MACC/CHC/HC patient population. Korea - Rarely presented. Under 5% patient population at San Fernando and Glendale HCs presented FCIC. 1 patient at Rancho. Mexico/Argentina/Korea - Combined total of 10-15% Olive View patient population.	No

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Parks and Recreation	Request to volunteer to coach at the East County Community Services Agency.	X			6	No
Probation	Request to visit and release detained minors; adult intake, supervision and investigation process.	X			Not available	No
Public Library	Application for library card.	X	X		Mexico - 285 Argentina - 0	No
Public Safety, Office of	Presented during course of law enforcement activities (i.e., citation issuance).	X			Not available	Officers must adhere to varying stipulation to file citation for prosecution with the courts, e.g. obtain photograph and thumbprints of person.
Public Social Services	Apply for CalWORKs/Refugee, General Relief, Food Stamps and MediCal benefits. <i>Note: FCIC does not entitle person to services for which he/she would otherwise be ineligible.</i>	X	X	X	Mexico/Argentina/Korea Combined total of 27,434	No
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk	Request Marriage Licenses and copies of Birth/Death/Marriage records, and pay fee with personal check.	X	X	X	Mexico - 8,400-10,800 Argentina- less than 20 Korea - less than 10	No
Sheriff	Identification during police contact, traffic stops, arrests, etc., for identification purposes.	X	X	X	Mexico - less than 300 Argentina- less than 10 Korea - less than 5	Difficulty in determining validity and authenticity of FCIC.
Treasurer and Tax Collector	Mexico - Register for Tax Sales, Business License Applications, and collection related matters (immigration clearance). Argentina - Apply for Business License.	X	X		Mexico - 5 Argentina - 1	No